

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 25, 39, 48, 62, 70, 75, 89, 98, 112, 125, 128, 132 and 135 as follows, cancelling the original claims without prejudice:

25. (Amended) An ink-supply system for a dot matrix printer comprising:

an ink-supply tank formed with an ink-supply delivery port having an opening for the passage of ink from said ink-supply tank; and

an ink absorbing member formed of a porous material mounted within said ink-supply tank and having a region facing said opening of said ink-supply delivery port, at least the region of said ink absorbing member facing said opening of said ink-supply delivery port being compressed relative to at least another region of said ink absorbing member [in the vicinity of said ink-supply delivery port].

39. (Amended) An ink-supply system for a dot matrix printer, comprising:

an ink-supply tank formed with an ink-supply delivery port having an opening for the passage of ink from said ink-supply tank and a wall facing said ink-supply delivery port; and

an ink absorbing member formed of a porous material mounted within said tank, said ink absorbing member having a region facing said opening and being compressingly contained in the space defined between said wall facing said ink-supply delivery port and said ink-supply delivery port so that at least the region of the ink absorbing member facing said opening is compressed relative to at least another region of the ink absorbing member.

48. (Amended) An ink-supply system for a dot matrix printer head comprising:

an ink-supply tank;

an ink absorbing member formed of a porous material contained within said ink-supply tank; and

means projecting into said ink-supply tank and formed with an opening for receiving and transmitting ink from said ink absorbing member for delivery to said printer head, said ink absorbing member having a region facing said opening, at least the region of said ink absorbing member facing the opening of said ink receiving and transmitting means being compressed relative to at least another region of the ink absorbing member [in the vicinity of said ink receiving and transmitting means].

62. (Amended) An ink-supply system for a dot matrix printer, comprising:

an ink-supply tank formed with an ink-supply delivery port having an opening for the passage of ink from said ink-supply tank; and

an ink absorbing member formed of a porous material mounted within said tank, said ink absorbing member having a region facing said opening and being compressingly contained by the ink-supply tank against the ink-supply delivery port so that at least the region of the ink absorbing member facing said opening is compressed relative to at least another region of the ink absorbing member.

83 ~~70~~. (Amended) [The] An ink-supply system [of claim 62, wherein] for a dot matrix printer, comprising:

an ink-supply tank formed with an ink-supply delivery port having an opening for the passage of ink from said ink-supply tank;

an ink absorbing member formed of a porous material mounted within said tank, said ink absorbing member having a region facing said opening and being compressingly contained by the ink-

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(concluded)

supply tank against the ink-supply delivery port so that at least the region of the ink absorbing member facing said opening is compressed relative to at least another region of the ink absorbing member; and

said ink absorbing member [carries] substantially filling [all of the ink in] said ink-supply tank [when said ink-supply tank is filled to the desired capacity of the ink-supply tank], said ink-supply tank including an inner wall surface having projections to provide a space between said ink absorbing member and said wall surface.

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75. (Amended) A dot matrix printer comprising:  
printing means for applying ink in a dot matrix to effect printing; and

an ink supply means for delivering ink to said printing means comprising:

an ink-supply tank formed with an ink-supply delivery port having an opening for the passage of ink from said ink-supply tank; and

an ink absorbing member formed of a porous material mounted within said ink-supply tank and having a region facing said opening of said ink-supply delivery port, at least the region of said ink absorbing member facing said opening of said ink-supply delivery port being compressed relative to at least another region of the ink absorbing member [in the vicinity of said ink-supply delivery port].

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89. (Amended) A dot matrix printer, comprising:  
printing means for applying ink in a dot matrix to effect printing; and

an ink supply means for delivering ink to said printing means comprising:

an ink-supply tank formed with an ink-supply delivery port having an opening for the passage of ink from said ink-supply tank and a wall facing said ink-supply delivery port; and

an ink absorbing member formed of a porous material mounted within said tank, said ink absorbing member having a region forming said opening and being compressingly contained in the space defined between said wall facing said ink-supply delivery port and said ink-supply delivery port so that at least the region of the ink absorbing member facing said opening is compressed relative to at least another region of the ink absorbing member.

98. (Amended) A dot matrix printer comprising:  
printing means for applying ink in a dot matrix to effect printing; and

an ink supply means for delivering ink to said printing means comprising:

an ink-supply tank;

an ink absorbing member formed of a porous material contained within said ink-supply tank; and

means projecting into said ink-supply tank and formed with an opening for receiving and transmitting ink from said ink absorbing member for delivery to said printer head, said ink absorbing member having a region facing said opening, at least the region of said ink absorbing member facing the opening of said ink receiving and transmitting means being compressed relative to at least another region of the ink absorbing member [in the vicinity of said ink receiving and transmitting means].

112. (Amended) A dot matrix printer, comprising:  
printing means for applying ink in a dot matrix to effect printing; and

an ink supply means for delivering ink to said printing means comprising:

an ink-supply tank formed with an ink-supply delivery port having an opening for the passage of ink from said ink-supply tank; and

an ink absorbing member formed of a porous material mounted within said tank, said ink absorbing member having a region facing said opening and being compressingly contained by the ink-supply tank against the ink-supply delivery port so that at least the region of the ink absorbing member facing said opening is compressed relative to at least another region of the ink absorbing member.

125. (Amended) A method for supplying ink to a dot matrix printer comprising:

providing an ink absorbing member formed of a porous material within an ink-supply tank formed with an ink-supply delivery port having an opening for the passage of ink from the ink-supply tank;

compressing said ink absorbing member relative to at least another region thereof at least in the [vicinity] region of said ink absorbing member facing said opening of said ink-supply delivery port; and

withdrawing ink from said ink-supply tank through the opening in said ink-supply delivery port.

128. (Amended) The method of claim 125, including the further step of applying ink to said ink-supply tank so that said ink absorbing member carries substantially all of the ink [in] that said ink-supply tank was designed to hold.

132. (Amended) A method for supplying ink for a dot matrix printer comprising:

providing an ink absorbing member formed of a porous material mounted within an ink-supply tank;

providing means projecting into said ink-supply tank and having an opening for receiving and transmitting ink from said ink absorbing member;

compressing said ink absorbing member relative to at least another region thereof at least in the [vicinity] region of the ink absorbing member facing the opening of said ink receiving and transmitting means; and

withdrawing said ink from said ink-supply tank through the opening of said ink receiving and transmitting means.

135. (Amended) The method of claim 132, including the further step of applying ink to said ink-supply tank so that said ink absorbing member carries substantially all of the ink [in] that said ink-supply tank was designed to hold.

Claim 27, line 4, cancel "the" and substitute --a--.

Claim 28, line 3, cancel "desired" and substitute --designed--.

Claim 30, line 4, cancel "the" and substitute --a--.

Claim 33, line 3, cancel "desired" and substitute --designed--.

Claim 40, line 4, cancel "the" and substitute --a--.

Claim 41, line 3, cancel "desired" and substitute --designed--.

Claim 43, line 4, cancel "the" and substitute --a--.

Claim 50, line 4, cancel "the" and substitute --a--.

Claim 51, line 3, cancel "desired" and substitute --designed--.

Claim 53, line 4, cancel "the" and substitute --a--.

Claim 56, line 3, cancel "desired" and substitute --designed--.